Message Text

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SECRETSTATE 015483 TOSEC 010108

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, GR, TU, PFOR

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - COMMENTS TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON SITUATION IN GREECE AND TURKEY (S/SNO. 7601370)

REF: BONN 00796

1. BACKGROUND. WHEN AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAW CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON JANUARY 16 TO GIVE HIM A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM YOU TO FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT, SCHMIDT COMMENTED ABOUT HIS RECENT VISIT TO GREECE AND HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE DETERIORATING DOMESTIC SITUATION IN TURKEY (REFTEL). HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE HAD TALKED TO THE TURKISH MILITARY ABOUT THE NEED FOR PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. GIVEN THE GERMANS HIGH STANDING IN ANKARA AND ATHENS AND THEIR PREVIOUS WILLINGNESS TO TALK DIRECTLY TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US, IT SEEMS WORTH ANSWERING SCHMIDT'S QUESTIONS DIRECTLY AND ENCOURAGING THE FRG TO TAKE SUPPORTIVE POSITIONS IN ANKARA AND ATHENS. ACCORDINGLY, WEHAVE PREPARED FOR YOUR APPROVAL THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION FOR EMBASSY BONN.

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- 2- BEGIN DRAFT CABLE: TO BONN IMMEDIATE. INFO LONDON, ATHENS, ANKARA PRIORITY. SUBJECT: FRG COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN GREECE AND TURKEY. FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND.
- 1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FROM SECRETARY CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

2. BEGIN ORAL MESSAGE:

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HEARING THE VIEWS YOU EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND PRIOR TO THE HELSINGOR CONFERENCE. MY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN GAVE ME A FORTUITOUS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN SOMETHING OF THE NATURE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS THERE, AND I KNOW FROM HIM AND FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT YOU PERSONALLY PLAYED A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. I WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME ANY CONCLUSIONS YOU WOULD WISH TO SHARE WITH US.

- 3. I ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IN GIVING AMBAS-SADOR HILLENBRAND YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF YOUR RECENT VISIT TO GREECE. I TOO AM MUCH IMPRESSED BY WHAT CARAMANLIS HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SINCE MID-1974, AND HIS CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE IS PERHAPS OUR BEST HOPE THAT A VIABLE CYPRUS SOLUTION CAN EVENTUALLY BE REACHED AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARD NORMALIZING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.
- 4. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE POLITICAL SITUATION WITHIN TURKEY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE KIND OF FLEXIBILITY THAT IS NECESSARY IF THERE IS TO BE PROGRESS TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR QUESTION CONCERNING OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MILITARY TAKING OVER AGAIN IN ANKARA, WE DO NOT JUDGE THIS AS LIKELY IN THE SHORT RUN. HOWEVER IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MILITARY IS CONCERNED OVER THE EXTENT OF STUDENT UNREST AND THE CAPACITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS FACING TURKEY. THAT INCLUDES CYPRUS AND ON THIS ISSUE WE HAVE SPOKEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY TO THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND HAVE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS AS A SECRET

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PRECONDITION TO THE NORMALIZATION OF US-TURKISH SECURITY TIES. BOTH GENERAL HAIG AND ADMIRAL TURNER HAVE SPOKEN ALONG THESE LINES TO GENERAL SANCAR AND OTHER TURKISH MILITARY LEADERS IN RECENT WEEKS. I APPRECIATE THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TALKED AT LENGTH TO SANCAR IN GERMANY LAST SUMMER ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING INTACT TURKEY'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST, BUT COUNSEL FROM YOU AND OTHERS IN GERMANY TO SANCAR AND HIS STAFF NOW

COULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY TURKISH MOVEMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU ON THIS COMPLEX OF ISSUES. END DRAFT CABLE.

6. CLEARED EUR:LBLAINGEN, S/S:ORTIZ. SISCO

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NNN

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Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM - COMMENTS TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON SITUATION IN GREECE AND TURKEY (S/SNO. 7601370)

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MASS, GE, GR, TU, US, CY, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)

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